

NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS' RIGHT-TO-KNOW
A Message from Superintendent Charles Cardillo

To All Parents:

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act stipulates that students must receive services from highly qualified professionals who have demonstrated mastery in their field. The NCLB Act dictates the following qualifications for teachers and paraprofessionals (teaching assistants):

1. Before being recommended to the Board of Education for hiring, all candidates for positions involving core academic subjects supported by Title I funds are required to produce evidence that they are highly qualified. They must hold a Bachelor's Degree or better and have met State qualification and licensing requirements for the grade levels and subject areas in which they are providing instruction. Newly hired elementary teachers must pass two New York State Teacher Certification Examinations—The Liberal Arts and Sciences Test and the Assessment of Teaching Skills-Written test—in order to demonstrate they have subject knowledge and teaching skills. Teachers who are not new to the profession have met the qualifications by passing examinations comparable to those named above, or by passing a uniform State standard of evaluation;
2. All paraprofessionals (teaching assistants) hired after January 8, 2002 and working in a Title I program must meet the criteria of being State Certified Teaching Assistants by either having completed at least 2 years of college, possessing an Associate's Degree or higher, and passing a formal State academic assessment. Any paraprofessional hired prior to January 8, 2002 must have received proper staff development in order to comply with and pass other State assessment options.

As Superintendent, I hereby attest to the fact that all members of the instructional staff in Manhasset Public Schools meet or exceed the criteria for "highly qualified" in compliance with NCLB regulations.

Further, if at any instance a student is assigned to or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher or a substitute teacher who is not highly qualified, you will receive timely notice of this situation and will be assured that either the teacher is working toward becoming highly qualified and is being closely monitored by supervisors and mentoring teachers, or steps are being taken to replace the teacher with a staff member who meets the State's highly qualified criteria.

Please contact your building principal if you have any questions about requirements for the qualification of staff. You may request information about the qualifications of your child's teacher(s) through that office.